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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

IN CHARGE OF
LAVINIA L. DOCK



ORGANIZATION NOTES

THE new English Society for the State Registration of Nurses announced a meeting at the end of May, at which Miss Louisa Stevenson was to preside. The society has already over four hundred members, and is preparing leaflets to distribute publicly dealing with the subject of registration in a way to educate and inform the public. The question of very small and special hospitals is a difficulty in English nursing as well as here, and Miss Todd, of Bournemouth, recommends coöperative training or affiliation with some large school—exactly the way out which we feel here to be the only one.

THE ENGLISH ARMY NURSING SERVICE.—The regulations for the Queen's Imperial Military Nursing Service are now published. We will give them in full when space allows. The matron-in-chief is Miss Sidney J. Browne, who is spoken of most highly. She holds the certificate of several important hospitals.

THE DEATH OF A GREAT PHILANTHROPIST

PROBABLY few American nurses know the name of William Rathbone, one of the noble humanitarians of England, who had so much to do with the earliest nursing reforms.

We quote from *Nursing Notes* the following sketch of this good man, lately deceased. We have given a slightly different arrangement to the context:

"Full of years and surrounded by the reverence and affection of all who knew him, the veteran pioneer of nursing, William Rathbone, of Liverpool, has passed to his rest.

"The friend and, as he loved to call himself, the pupil of Miss Nightingale, William Rathbone was associated with her in the schemes that made the latter half of the nineteenth century memorable for the nursing world.

"We wonder if the nurse of to-day—able with so little effort to get a good training, and, when that training is finished, able easily to choose to which of the many well-paid and useful branches of nursing she shall devote herself—knows that it was William Rathbone who introduced the first trained nurse into a workhouse infirmary, started the first district nurse to attend the sick poor in their own homes, and carried into the provinces that excellent system of nurse training started by Miss Nightingale at St. Thomas's Hospital, that famous school to which the nursing world owes so much.

"For nearly half a century William Rathbone has placed his enthusiasm, his wealth, and his marvellous power of hard work at the service of the sick poor, and he has lived to see in many instances a full harvest from his own sowing. Workhouse nursing is still, to modern ideas, in a most chaotic state, but

one has only to glance back at the condition in which Agnes Jones found the Liverpool Workhouse when placed there by William Rathbone to realize that much progress has been made.

"But there is one branch that we think he loved the most, district nursing, which he founded, and which now in the length and breadth of the land is not only considered a philanthropic luxury but a politico-economical necessity.

"In a few words justice cannot be done to Mr. Rathbone's enthusiasm for the good and comfort of his less fortunate and poorer fellow-creatures; it is only possible briefly to refer to the work which was so near his heart, and which he carried out so wisely and so well. In 1859, after a trying time of illness in his own family, he realized in the large-hearted way so peculiarly his own what a difference skilled nursing had made in a home in which an invalid could be surrounded by every luxury, and how much greater this difference would be in the homes of the poor. To realize, with Mr. Rathbone, was to do, and he immediately instituted and bore the expense of a district nurse to help in relieving the distress caused by sickness in the miserable houses of the Liverpool poor. From this beginning has sprung that immense organization of District Nursing in the large provincial towns and in London, which culminated in 1887 in the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute.

"William Rathbone came of Quaker stock, and the influence of that spiritual, simple, but at the same time eminently practical school of thought was to be clearly traced in the actions of his life.

"It is a matter for much thankfulness that the Providence in whom he so firmly trusted permitted him to work to the last. Within a few weeks of his death he dictated able letters of advice on the beloved subject of district nursing to his colleagues, who might indeed say:

"'O how comely is the wisdom of old men and understanding and counsel to men of honor! Much experience is the crown of old men and the fear of God is their glory.'"

THE HISTORY OF REGISTRATION IN SOUTH AFRICA*

COMPILED BY MARGARET BREAY

Formerly Matron of the English Hospital, Zanzibar

AFRICA is known as the "Dark Continent," but darkness is giving place to dawn, and dawn with tropical rapidity to broad daylight. A powerful factor in this development is the trained nurse, who, following the flag, has found her way to the heart of the continent. In Uganza on the shores of the Victoria Nyanza there is now a hospital having a three-years' certificated nurse as matron, and on the island of Likoma, in Lake Nyassa, there is a well-appointed hospital nursed by certificated British nurses. The same may be said of Zomba, the headquarters of the administration in British Central Africa.

On the northern seaboard English nurses are doing excellent work in hospitals at Port Said, Alexandria, and Algiers, while further inland at Cairo there is a large hospital, with an English matron and nursing staff in which native nurses are trained.

On the West Coast many lives have been saved by the good offices of members of our profession in the hospitals at Sierra Leone and Lagos, and on the

* Extracts from reports sent to the International Council of Nurses, Buffalo, 1901.

East Coast there is at Mombasa a government hospital which is nursed by religious sisters. At Tanga is another under the care of German deaconesses, while the island of Zanzibar, the metropolis of the East Coast, has English, French, and native hospitals.

The former is interesting, inasmuch as in it some progress has been made in giving systematic instruction to native men and women in nursing. The hospital is maintained by the Universities' Mission to Central Africa, and the value of the work is great, as the African thus receives instruction in habits of order, method, and discipline, and in an appreciation of the value of time, which are foreign to him naturally.

So far the men have, on the whole, made better nurses than the women, partly because the African women marry so early that few of them stay in the hospital long enough to pass through a full training, and partly because in Zanzibar, as in other Eastern countries, the men are in advance of the women in educational development, partly again because the male wards are more used, and, consequently, afford a better training-ground than those for females, and it would outrage national feeling to place an unmarried woman in charge of male wards. Nevertheless, some of the girls have proved themselves apt and trustworthy pupils, and, given equal advantages with the men, would no doubt become equally proficient. They have many of the gifts essential in a good nurse, being gentle, kind, and sympathetic, dexterous with their hands, and quiet in their movements. They are also, as a rule, devoted to children. On the other hand, they do not like performing those parts of the work which they consider menial, and they have not much sense of responsibility, neither have they much stamina.

So far as practical work goes, both native men and women in Zanzibar have learned enough to make them very useful. They can polish instruments and prepare for an operation in a way which would be creditable in an up-to-date London hospital. Their theoretical work has so far lagged behind the practical, and there are at present no nursing text-books in the Swahili language.

The influence of the training given in this hospital is far-reaching, because many of those who receive it ultimately return to their own tribes up country, and thus carry their nursing knowledge to villages where no European is stationed.

We must, however, turn to South Africa to find nursing organization in an advanced condition.

Nurses in South Africa were the first and were for a long time the only ones to have legal status and registration, a privilege obtained for them largely by the efforts of Sister Henrietta, of Kimberley. This registration is carried out by the State Medical Council. Its history is as follows:

In 1891, when the new Medical Bill was brought before the Cape Parliament, the trained nurses of the country almost unanimously—a little band of some sixty-six women then, now quite an army—petitioned for a place on the register and State control. With much care and forethought an admirable act was drawn up and passed, providing for the registration of foreign trained nurses, and the State examination and then registration of the colonial trained nurses. The bill was in two parts—the first referring to midwives, and the second to trained nurses.

After ten-years' trial, on the whole, it has worked well. Nursing is a recognized profession, and trained nurses *legally* stand in the same position as doctors

and lawyers, the certificate granted by the Council being practically a license to practise.

Miss M. H. Watkins, in her paper read in the Nursing Section at the International Congress of Women held in London, gave the following information as to the working of the act:

"After the act was passed a year of grace was given, during which all nurses holding hospital certificates could register.

"When this year of grace was over, the Medical Council formed a syllabus of subjects in which nurses must be trained, which is much the same as in the best hospitals in England. They also suggested books to be studied by nurses. They have also appointed the following centres at which examinations shall be held: Cape Town, Kimberley, Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown, and King William's Town.

"The house surgeons generally, and, in Kimberley, some of the visiting surgeons, give courses of lectures on antiseptics, anatomy, physiology, etc. Examinations are held half-yearly, in June and December. The council will not now examine any who have not had three-years' hospital training in a hospital of not less than forty beds.

"The written questions are uniform for each centre, and are entrusted to two medical men, who sit as local commissioners during the time in which the answers are being written, and by whom they are returned to the Medical Council. These same two doctors conduct the viva-voce examination, which is generally held on the day following the written. The marks for the viva-voce are given by these doctors and reported to the Medical Council, who *themselves* examine the written papers, and, in some two or three weeks' time, send certificates to nurses who have passed their examinations successfully. The Medical Council publishes yearly a 'Register of Certificated Nurses,' which can be had for half-a-crown.

"Hitherto registration has had a markedly good effect in the Colony—1st, by raising the standard of education for nurses; 2d, in raising the status of nurses; 3d, in awakening ambition in nurses; and, 4th, in affording, by their published Register, an opportunity to the public of knowing that the nurse they engage is duly qualified, an opportunity of which, I am glad to say, many avail themselves.

"Of course, education and registration do not always insure a nurse being an acceptable one. There are, and always will be, nurses *and* nurses; but I think registration has done as much as we might have expected in the time."

A leading superintendent of nursing in South Africa writes in the *Nursing Record*:

"The main advantage of the Register to nurses is that in any case of difficulty they can appeal to the council—such as testimonials withheld, wrongful dismissal, or unjust accusations. The council goes thoroughly into the matter, and in the few cases which have been brought before it, it has shown itself much inclined to take the part of the nurse. Nurses can register as midwives do, either by producing approved certificates of some foreign country and proof of three-years' training and successful examinations, or, in the case of colonial nurses, proof of training and character, and passing the council's examination for nurses.

"REPRESENTATION ON COUNCIL.

"But there is one great difficulty. There is on the council a representative dentist and chemist, elected by the dentists and chemists, and approved by the Governor, to advise the council on subjects pertaining to dentistry and pharmacy respectively, and to lay before the council the claims of dentists and chemists.

There should also be a representative nurse-midwife, who should be able, not to vote in the council, but to speak on nursing and midwifery questions. There have been various cases which show the need of this. A magistrate wrote to the council saying a case had come before him in which he could only commit the midwife for trial for manslaughter, but he believed there were extenuating circumstances into which, as a layman, he could not enter. He begged the council to appoint a commission of inquiry, and if the woman were acquitted on the graver charge, to take such steps in dealing with her that another woman should not lose her life through her ignorance and carelessness. After a long time the council replied that, as she was an amateur midwife, untrained and unregistered, they had no machinery in their hands to deal with her. Again, five licensed midwives in one town addressed the council about a quack (also licensed). They said it was a fact that in this place several women had died shortly after childbirth, that they had all been attended by this midwife, that various charges were being continually made against her competency and professional conduct. They urged the council, for the sake of other licensed midwives' professional status, to grant an inquiry which would either clear the midwife in question or suspend her license for a period. After a fortnight the council answered by a facetious inquiry as to whether the midwives were prepared to write the death certificates themselves for the women who they stated died shortly after childbirth; and, after a lapse of several weeks, came another letter saying the council could not listen to any request of the kind from midwives. Yet, if a doctor reports a midwife to the council, she is at once suspended without any inquiry for three, six, or nine months. What is wanted is representation on the council. Again, on nursing questions. A clause in the act provides that the council's certificate may be given to any foreign nurse who has been trained for three years by any training-school which the council may consider competent to train, and who holds the certificate of that body. But this 'competence,' in the eyes of the council, appears to me to be absolutely capricious. Now an Edinburgh Royal Infirmary nurse is refused her license and registration, now a Leicester nurse, a Birmingham General Hospital nurse, a Ryde Infirmary nurse, while, again, nurses from obscure and petty training-schools are passed. A nurse on the council could lay the different training in different schools before the council and advise them on the subject.

"Again, nurses have petitioned Parliament, and written privately to the council, asking that three-years' training may be the standard—even royalty has addressed the council on the subject on behalf of South African nurses—but, for a year, one-year's training was all they required; then, for seven years, only two. The wishes of nurses and matrons were wholly disregarded, but a few months ago (in 1899) a doctor in the council brought the subject forward. It was passed at once, approved by the Governor, and forthwith became law. A representative nurse on the council could have done it from the first. No doubt the tendency of the council is to make *all* nurses pass the Cape examinations, whatever their previous history has been, as an M.A. of Oxford has to pass certain Cape examinations before he can enter the Civil Service, and it would cause less friction to say so fairly than to reject nurse after nurse who has held good positions in England on some trivial point or other.

"The great aim of nurses should be that no private nursing institution should be allowed to send out an unregistered nurse, and no hospital receiving a government grant should be allowed to employ any woman as matron or sister

who is unregistered. But this cannot be while registration is made so difficult and worrying to nurses, and until they are represented by a trained nurse holding a midwifery qualification on the council."

The larger hospitals, such as the Kimberley hospital and several others, prepare pupils for the Cape government examination of nurses, for which they may enter candidates who have received three-years' training in the wards of the hospital. Certificates are no longer granted by the individual schools, as the Medical Council has rescinded the authority to issue certificates formerly permitted to hospital authorities.

LETTERS

HEAD-QUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF CUBA,
OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT DEPARTMENT OF CHARITIES,
April 7, 1902.

TO THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING.

Among the most interesting features of the first National Conference of Charities and Corrections held in Havana, Cuba, the latter part of March, were the sessions devoted to hospitals and training-schools.

In the hours devoted to hospital matters some very interesting questions were brought up for discussion. But the evening given to training-schools was satisfactory beyond anything we had expected.

It has been so difficult to arouse interest in our schools except in those persons who were immediately connected with the hospitals that it was doubtful whether we should have an audience, and we were agreeably surprised to find how large a number of enthusiastic friends we had made for our nurses.

Fifty-nine pupil nurses from the two schools in Havana were present in full uniform. Two of them read papers which were very well written, their own composition.

The meeting was opened by Dr. Charles E. Finlay, oculist of Hospital Mercedes, Havana, who read a paper on the widespread benefits of training-schools, giving a short history of the organization of schools in Cuba.

He was followed by Father Jones, president of St. Augustine's College, Havana,—subject, "The Attitude of the Church towards the Schools."

A very good paper was read by Miss Hibbard, superintendent of the school in Matanzas, on "The General Culture of the Nurse."

Dr. Raimundo Menconal, professor of surgery, University of Havana, gave as his subject "The Usefulness of the Professional Nurse."

Miss O'Donnell, superintendent of the school in connection with Hospital Mercedes, Havana, read a paper on "The Difficulties Relating to Training-Schools."

Mrs. L. W. Quintard, Inspector of Hospitals and Asylums, gave a paper on the subject of "How to Best Protect the Cuban Nurses while in Discharge of Duties Outside the Hospitals."

When we remember how little was known of training-schools or nurses in Cuba two years ago it seems marvellous that such a meeting as this could be possible. The best thought of all is that these schools are placed upon such a firm foundation that their success must be assured.

Here we have State recognition, a fixed curriculum, and are really a part of the University of Havana. What we now need is to be under the Board of Education rather than the Board of Charities. This may be a dream of the future,

it may be a realization sooner than we think at present. By thus improving the standard we hope to induce pupils from the better classes to enter our schools. So many are now teaching that we hope to secure this same class for training-schools.

L. W. QUINTARD,

Special Inspector, Department of Charities.

ITEMS

THE DAILY NURSE.—The subject of "The Daily Nurse" was discussed at the meeting of Nurses in Council, at the Trained Nurses' Club, London, Miss Amy Hughes presiding, on February 28, and though several friends who had promised to take part in the discussion were not able to be present, it was a very interesting meeting; several members who had worked as daily nurses gave an account of their experiences and the difficulties they had met with as regards fees, hours of work, night duty, etc.

An excellent paper sent by Miss Gillie, secretary of the Queen Victoria District Nursing Association, Liverpool, was read by Miss Hulme, showing how much there is to be done in the direction of daily nursing in the future, and describing the attempt made to meet the want by this association. Miss Gillie stated her conviction that there exists as much need for this branch of nursing among the middle classes as there is for the work among the sick poor, and that especially valuable is the teaching which is thus given in cases where there is more education and a greater wish to profit by the advantage of a trained nurse's ministrations than with the very poor. To families of small means, or to single men or women in rooms, the "daily nurse" must be a priceless blessing, and Miss Gillie expressed the hope that soon in connection with every district nursing home there would be the possibility of obtaining the help which only needs to be known to be appreciated. The effort made in Liverpool had met with a warm welcome and a gratifying success.

Several members spoke and various schemes set forth were discussed, and although all were agreed that the "daily nurse" was certainly needed, up to the present she had met with little success for want of organization.

One practical suggestion was that the lady superintendents of the various District Nursing Homes should have a list of the nurses in their districts who were willing to do daily work, so that the public would be able to hear of them by applying at the homes.

One member proposed a "Daily Nurses' Nursing Home," nurses to be paid a fixed salary and sent out from the institution to daily cases; while another suggested that several nurses should join together and work among the better-class flats, where it was thought that the demand for a daily nurse was great.—*Nursing Notes.*

THE COSMOPOLITAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION OF MANILA.—Manila is to have a training-school for nurses, in which both native-born and foreign women may be received as pupils.

The Woman's Hospital established by Mrs. Whitelaw Reid, which has been mentioned in the *JOURNAL*, is to become the nucleus of the "Cosmopolitan Hospital Association," which will enlarge the bed capacity to one hundred and will probably have one or two detached pavilions for contagious diseases. The hos-

pital will begin by providing only for pay patients, the cost of a ward bed being twenty dollars a week. Fifty annual subscribers will support as many beds, seven hundred and fifty dollars in gold supporting a bed for one year. We hope it will add free beds for those who are unable to pay this sum. The training-school course will be two years, and both women and men will be trained. The hours of work are to be eight daily, with two days off after a month's night duty. We have not learned whether a superintendent of nurses has been selected.

A MEETING of the members of the Dublin Nurses' Club was held on Wednesday evening, April 2, and was very well attended. The chief feature of the evening was the reading of essays by members of the club, for which two prizes were offered by the directors of the City of Dublin Nursing Institution. The first essay, "The Preparation of and Nursing a Case of Abdominal Section Throughout," was won by Miss Butler, of Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, and the other, on "Manners," by Miss Young, of the City of Dublin Nursing Institution. Both essays were much appreciated by those present, and an interesting discussion followed.

THE Royal British Nurses' Association has succeeded in raising the money needed to build its "settlement," or home for aged and infirm nurses. It is to provide a comfortable residence for nurses who have some small income of their own, as they will have to do "light housekeeping," as we call it, at their own expense. The settlement is to be in every way uninstitutional and private in its appointments.

ALL nurses who met Miss Wood at the Congress will be sorry to hear that she has just gone through a severe attack of typhoid fever and will be obliged to take a long rest. We wish her a good convalescence and restored strength.

AFTER July 1 the *Nursing Record*, edited by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, will appear as the *British Journal of Nursing*. We await its appearance with much interest.

